

LOUISIANA *Conservationist*

JULY-AUGUST, 1951



Louisiana

CONSERVATIONIST

EARL K. LONG
Governor of Louisiana



ERNEST S. CLEMENTS
Commissioner

Published Monthly except May, June, July and August, when
Bi-Monthly in the interest of conservation by Louisiana
Department of Wild Life and Fisheries

126 Civil Courts Building, New Orleans, La.

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Vol. 3

JULY-AUGUST

Nos. 11-12

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I GIVE MY PLEDGE
AS AN AMERICAN
TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY TO
DEFEND FROM WASTE
THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF
MY COUNTRY — ITS SOIL
AND MINERALS, ITS
FORESTS, WATERS,
AND WILDLIFE

DEPARTMENT OF WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES
DIVISION OF EDUCATION & PUBLICITY

Entered as second class mail matter August 21, 1947, at the Post Office at
New Orleans, La., under the act of August 24, 1912.
Member, Southwestern Association of Industrial Editors



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State bird of Louisiana, the Pelican, pictured here in one of the best studies ever presented of this strange bird.

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By Ernest S. Clements

*Commissioner of Wild Life and Fisheries
of Louisiana*

JUNIOR wildlife clubs, conservation clubs and 4-H clubs have sprung up at an amazing rate all over the country in the last decade, but have you wondered why? The answer is simple. Outdoors and youth are synonymous. Virtually all youth loves the outdoor life. Glowing with health and bubbling over with vitality, they want to be outdoors, enjoying fresh air and sunshine. They like all forms of outdoor sports, they play hard, and many times they are so adept they put many an olderster to shame. It is not uncommon for a lad with a fishing rod or a gun to walk away with prize trophies, much to the experienced sportsman's wonder and surprise.

These young hunters and fishermen are the citizens and sportsmen of tomorrow. It is for their future that we must conserve our wildlife now. It is for their future that we must encourage them in the fundamentals of good sportsmanship, teach them to hunt properly, and to fish expertly, and we can only do this by taking them fishing and hunting.

A father-and-son fishing trip opens up new vistas in personal relationship for both. It places them on a "buddy basis" which is bound to develop a spirit of camaraderie that brings them closer together, and at the same time provides wholesome outdoor recreation for both.

Most of us were born with a gold spoon in our mouth as far as an abundant supply of fish and game in our woods and streams is concerned. Through our lack of foresight we have failed our children in that we have done so little to assure that they, too, would have an outlet for their field and stream desires. Unlike ourselves at their age our youths' interest in conservation is well founded, and the training they get now, in the necessity for protection of our wildlife resources, will stand them in good stead in their maturity. That is the paramount reason why our conservation programs and our restocking efforts must progress.

Our boys love to fish and hunt as much as we do. It is their heritage that they have as much to fish and hunt as we have had. It is not only our obligation to teach them to fish properly and hunt safely, it is also our obligation to see to it that they are permitted to enjoy these field and stream delights in the same abundance that greeted our induction into the rod and gun fraternity.

Thus, by adopting a two-fold plan, that of assuring our youth of the future of our state's wildlife resources, and personally tutoring them in the arts of fishing and hunting, we can guarantee that our boys and girls will grow into good and sound citizens as well as genuine sportsmen.

Taking a boy fishing is a simple thing to do, yet it could mean the difference between that boy becoming a splendid man, or a misfit among good citizens. The lessons learned by our youth in pursuit of outdoor recreation will be everlasting. If those lessons enhance his love of nature, imbue him with a loyalty to the rules of sportsmanship, teach him the fundamentals of safety with rod and gun, and above all, teach him to give every living thing a sporting chance, there need be no fear but that he will mature into a fine, decent, God-fearing man.

DO YOU LIKE PICTURES?

So do we! Hunting pictures . . . fishing pictures . . . pictures of the game you bagged . . . pictures of your dogs . . . pictures of yourself or your friends on a hunt or fishing trip . . . in fact any kind of good pictures that have a bearing on field or stream sports.

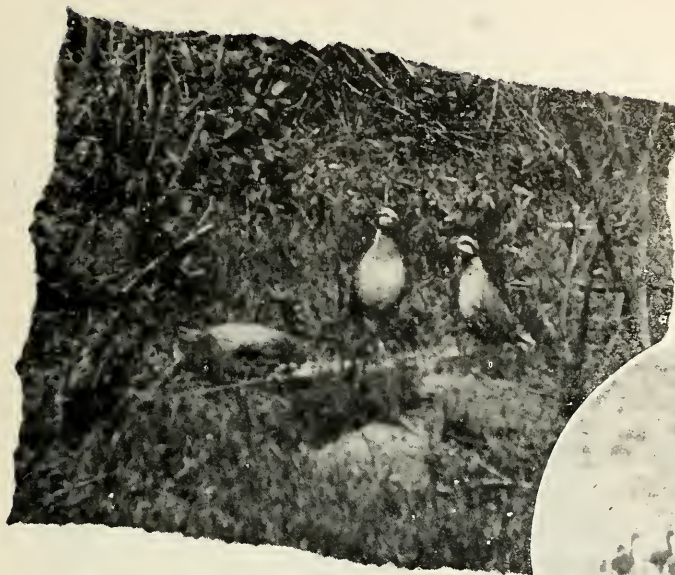
Mail them to EDITOR, LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST, 126 Civil Courts Bldg., New Orleans, and we'll return 'em to you as soon as we've been able to use them.



Scenes in the Catahoula Game Preserve in Grant and Winn parishes. (Upper left) One of the several fish ponds in the refuge. (Upper right) One of the good roads that run throughout this 45,000 game refuge, showing the type of terrain on each side that is ideal for deer and wild turkeys. (Left center) Railroad that runs through the game preserve, one of the biggest menaces to the wild turkey population. (Lower left) Dog pen in the heart of the refuge, in which stray and wild dogs are held until claimed. In the picture are, left to right, Tom Hoffman, Roland Vernon and Steve Baker. (Lower right) Left to right, Roland Vernon, supervisor in charge of Preserve; Horace E. Styles, in charge of the fence-building crew; Steve Baker, law enforcement supervisor of the Alexandria district, and Tom Hoffman, game warden.



CATAHOULA GAME PRESERVE



(On left) A rare picture of a pair of bobwhites taken on one of Louisiana's game preserves, and on right, a wild turkey hen with her brood of little ones snapped on the Catahoula game preserve, near Alexandria, this summer.



IN THE AREA comprising the Kisatchie National forest of more than a million acres in Louisiana, it would be difficult, in fact almost impossible, to describe the major opportunities for outdoor recreation. There would simply be too many of them. And now that a number of state game preserves have been established by the department of Wild Life and Fisheries in various areas of this vast national forest, there is even a greater game potential.

Take the Catahoula game preserve for instance. It contains more than 46,000 acres in the Kisatchie range in Grant and Winn parishes, about 30 miles from Alexandria. But huge as this preserve is, it is surrounded by even greater tracts of equally fine game habitat. It is easily the biggest game refuge in the state and although it may not have the heaviest and most varied game population at this time, because it is surrounded by the same type of terrain and habitat, there is a constant migration of furred and feathered game into the areas outside the actual refuge,

By Mel Washburn

*(Director, Division of Education and
Publicity, Department of Wild
Life and Fisheries)*

and already the sportsmen of that section of the state have come to realize what a properly stocked and protected game preserve of this kind can be for their hunting pleasure.

They tell me that on the morning the deer season opens in Grant and Winn parishes the roads, lanes and paths just outside this game preserve resemble a gigantic picnic or carnival. Men, women and even children are camped at what they think will be strategic points to get a sight, or possibly a shot, at a deer. Many of them come from hundreds of miles away; many of them establish themselves on what they believe will be choice spots the day before; and many of them just settle any old place in the vague hope that something will come their way.

Before dawn the dogs can be heard and with the break of day the blast of the shotgun explodes with the dawn. How many deer are killed? Not too many according to available statistics. There were probably 125 deer killed in that section last year, outside the confines of the Catahoula preserve, of course. Game management experts tell me that's a pretty good annual average for the last several years.

It is, however, controlled hunting that these deer seekers engage in. Game wardens are very much in evidence, and in a crowd of that sort, no minute infractions of the law are condoned. The wardens bear down for even the most minor infringements. In a crowd like that it would be imperative that they did, and the hunters have been quick to realize that without properly controlled hunting their sports carnival would soon be over.

When this Catahoula game preserve was established a few years ago it was not thought there would have to be much done in the way of restocking. There was a fair

deer population on the refuge proper, and an equal amount of white-tails in surrounding areas. The fact that all the tract had been a forest preserve for more than a decade had had a beneficial effect in protecting game, but with the banning of all firearms, roaming dogs and poachers, there was an almost immediate upsurge in all game population. Squirrels increased rapidly; rabbits thrived in the open grassy ranges and brush grown thickets; the few quail native to the community stepped up their production to the maximum the food and cover would permit, and there was a noticeable increase in young deer.

It is estimated that there is now a population of more than 600 deer in, or immediately outside the refuge. Thirteen deer were brought in and released during the last year to add to the native herd, and if the estimated kill is no more than the 125 claimed each year, the natural increase this year should be in excess of 250, meaning that the migration to habitat outside the preserve will be greater each succeeding year.

Since 1949 a total of 75 wild turkeys have been liberated in this Catahoula area, and game management men have reported numerous flocks of young turkeys this year, proving beyond doubt that the stocked birds have survived, thrived and reproduced. There is no reason why they shouldn't. The terrain is ideal for wild turkeys. It provides a wealth of various kinds of mast, berries in season, seeds and greens on which turkeys thrive. These have been augmented by cultivated food patches in which turkeys have been seen almost daily.

The biggest hazard for the turkey population is the railroad that runs through the almost center of the preserve and has a sometimes fatal attraction for turkeys, which feed along the rails, picking up grain that has sifted from grain cars, small gravel, and other food that falls from trains of one kind or another.

One of the most serious menaces is a constant influx of wild or stray dogs. The Catahoula preserve is the only one in the state that maintains a dog pen into which these mauling canines are put when captured and held for their owners, or destroyed if owners can not be found. Roland Vernon, supervisor of the preserve, and Steve Baker, director of game law enforcement in that area, say they have seen more than 75 dogs in the pen at one time during the hunting season. First law of all game preserves in Louisiana is that no dogs or no firearms of any kind are permitted on the preserve.

Now there has been a game sanctuary established within this huge game preserve. Several thousand acres in almost the very heart of the area have been fenced to keep out cattle, hogs and other predators. This sanctuary will be patrolled constantly and before long the game itself will adopt it as a completely safe domicile. This sanctuary, is hoped, will serve as an incubator to increase the game population that

will eventually be forced to migrate to outside terrain.

It may even be possible to have controlled hunting in this area in the not too distant future, another indication of the success of the restocking program now in full stride under the direction of Ernest S. Clements, commissioner of the department of Wild Life and Fisheries. And controlled hunting in the Catahoula area should be something. It is the one game preserve in the state that has good roads running through it in all directions. Established first by the timber interests, these roads have been maintained by the U. S. Forest rangers. It is even possible to make a tour by automobile throughout most of the pre-

serve and on the morning that I made such a tour, deer, turkeys, squirrels and rabbits were seen, feeding in open areas, or dashing back and forth across the roads.

Residents and sportsmen of Grant and Winn parishes are justly proud and enthusiastic about the Catahoula Game Preserve. It is right that they should be. It is not only the largest in Louisiana; but, contains some of the most beautiful game habitat, and has proved a success in the restoration of game to that area, it is surrounded by hundreds of thousands of acres of similar terrain, making the refuge proper a constantly operating incubator providing a steady flow of game into areas where hunting is enjoyed.



Three large catfish caught in Big Kisatchie Creek, near Cypress, La., by Ray Beltz and Roy Lowe, of Leesville, La. The fish weighed 20, 42 and 65 pounds respectively.

THE LOUISIANA PELICAN

By James Nelson Gowanloch

(Chief Biologist, Louisiana Department of
Wild Life and Fisheries)



THE story of our State bird of Louisiana, the "Eastern Brown Pelican," reveals a spectacular, interesting, gawky bird whose character has been long universally enshrined in a low limerick, the only literary merit of which is that it contains two trenchant, useful Anglo-Saxon words—"belly" and "bill".

Appended to the discussion of the Pelican is an account of some other large sea birds that often drift, usually unnoticed and almost always unknown, into the vision of Louisianians who sport fish along the Gulf Coast.

The name of the Pelican in other languages evokes surprise—in Spanish, Alcatraz (a name made famous by John Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation) or Pelicano, or in Brazilian, Pelecano and in Louisiana-French, Grand Gosier ("great throat") which becomes in French Guiana, Grand Gossier.

There exists a tiny, storm beaten island in the Chandeleur-Breton Island group (near to Breton Island) that is named Grand Gosier. It is reasonable that the name was given because of the existence formerly thereon of Pelican colonies. When the writer visited the island many years ago, all vegetation had been swept away and it had become the abode of Terns and Skimmers and Gulls. The writer noted with surprise that although the island still does exist, it has become with other of these "barrier islands" an unnamed and tiny mark on the official map of the State of Louisiana.

The Brown Pelicans of all subspecies appear to be essentially marine birds, whereas the White Pelican prefers, if anything, fresh water for its habitat.

The most recent world survey of the relationships of birds is the work of Peters, which has already reached six volumes. The Pelicans are included in Volume I which was published twenty years ago, not surprising since such research involves long study of libraries and museums the world over. This exposition (Peters, 1931) decides that the specific Order (an Order is one of the largest divisions in the cataloging of birds) named the Pelecaniformes, which includes the Pelicans, is made up of some of our most interesting Louisiana birds, several of which will later be referred to in more detail. The Families included in this Order are the Tropic Birds, the Pelicans, the Gannets and the Boobies, the Cormorants, the Mexican Snake Birds and the Man-o'-War Birds, known elsewhere in the world as the Frigate Birds.

Two species of Pelicans occur in Louisiana, the Brown Pelican, whose now recognized five subspecies range all the way from North Carolina to Central Chile.

Our particular State bird is, oddly enough, given technically the designation of another state since it is named *Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis*. This subspecies has a normal breeding range from the Carolinas to Texas. At least as far as Mississippi is concerned, it is loyal to Louisiana, since: "There is no known instance of the Brown Pelican nesting on the Mississippi coast; the closest breeding colonies

are in the Chandeleur Islands, Louisiana." (Burleigh, 1944).

It has become properly an official act to select some object with feathers on it and politically designate it as the emblem of the State. Louisiana, and Louisiana alone, has chosen the Eastern Brown Pelican as its State emblem. The choice of birds by the states has been an interesting matter since it sublimates the agitation of Garden Clubs and local Audubon Societies into effective action. Oddly enough, the favorite bird of the writer, the Western Meadow Lark, which does not occur in Louisiana since our Meadow Lark is a completely different species, ranks in premier position as a choice of seven states—Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Louisiana, however, exclusively chooses the Pelican.

The Pelican is an estimable and honorable bird, burdened with a despicable limerick that is without biological basis.

The Pelican has a long and extraordinary, in fact, unique history in Christianity. The Pelican became very early, indeed, the symbol of all that was good in the disturbed world that preceded the well named Dark Ages, and the Pelican was used as the pattern of Christ dispensing the saving of the lost world.

There existed a strange group of documents known as the Bestiaries, which, in fact, were a way whereby normal precepts could be conveyed to ignorant people one thousand years ago. The writer has possessed some of these significant documents.

The Brown and White Pelican exhibit a sharp contrast inasmuch as the first species is marine, the second typically far inland. The writer has found the largest concentrations of Brown Pelicans in Louisiana at North Island on Chandeleur Sound, at the mud lumps off Main Pass and at Timbalier. The factors that decide the establishment of a Brown Pelican colony do, the writer believes, chiefly concern the impact of storms and the rise of storm tides during the critical period when the nests are being built. An additional factor, the writer has observed, is the accessibility of the Pelican colonies to predators, particularly the Raccoon. Raccoons can swim expertly and have become enormously abundant along the Louisiana Gulf Coast because of the low price recently paid for Coon skins (the average price per pelt for



This fine portrait by Francis L. Jaques shows the typical flight of the Eastern Brown Pelican, the characteristic plunging position in fish catching, also a bird at rest and two birds exhibiting their usual buoyant swimming position while in the background a small part of the Pelican colony can be seen nesting on mangroves. Top and to the left fly three Man-o'-War birds, "cousin" of the Pelican and a familiar bird to Louisiana Gulf Coast fishermen. (After Arthur H. Howell.)

the late trapping season (1949-1950) was twenty-seven cents). 'Coons are extremely fond of eggs and young birds and are quite capable of wiping out a bird colony if they are present in considerable numbers.

The White Pelican in contrast is a bird of fresh water nesting habitat. The writer has studied breeding colonies of White Pelicans in Canada as far away from the ocean as one thousand miles. The reproductive success of the White Pelican is absolutely zero in Louisiana for although the writer has noted flocks of as many as two hundred and fifty White Pelicans during late June, the normal breeding period of this species, not a single authentic breeding record is available for Louisiana although it does nest in Texas.

North Island in Chandeleur Sound probably provides on of the most typical and abundant Brown Pelican colonies in the whole State. The birds typically nest on black-mangroves (also called honey-mangroves), the technical name of which is *Avicennia nitida*. This shrub, which occupies saline waters, commonly attains a height of less than six feet, the exception being, as Dr. Clair A. Brown (1945) has pointed out, Bayou Tortillion where the fresh waters of the Mississippi pour into this area through the Ostrica Canal. Here the honey-mangrove grows to a height of

twenty to twenty-five feet. The sight of the congested and compact Brown Pelican colonies on the low honey-mangroves in such a situation as North Island is amazing and unforgettable, especially when, as the author has so often done, viewed from a plane. The home life of the Pelican is quite beyond the adjective weird. The birds are capable of concentrating their nesting activities because of their competent fishing skill and their high powers of flight.

Brown Pelicans normally lay three eggs, sometimes four and most rarely five, the last probably from two mothers. Dull, lusterless, with a rough granular surface, the eggs quickly become stained and progressively more filthy. They average approximately three inches in length by slightly less than two inches in diameter, and are laid in a quite well constructed nest. Sometimes the nest is built on the ground on small islands where storm tides wash away the eggs. Often, because of the usual coastally exposed situation of the nesting colonies, heavy storms wipe out completely nests and eggs or nests and young. Frequently, also, there recur sweeping pandemic diseases which may destroy the entire population of adults and leave the young to starve. The actual pathological cause of these disasters is not by any means understood and may be quite various.

The writer during the last twenty years has repeatedly investigated reports of such mass death of Pelicans in Louisiana colonies, but although he has flown to the scene within a matter of hours, he has never yet been able to confirm any such report, finding instead healthy birds rearing their young.

The Pelican is quite a large bird. Its name is long—*Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis*. Ranging from forty-four to fifty-six inches in length, it has a spectacular wing spread of six and a half to seven feet.

As will hereafter be developed, its acceptance on the State seal was quite complicated, but can now be clarified.

Pelicans are extraordinary animals in their flight. Weather fine, they may fly high. Weather bad, they fly above the crests of the ocean waves. They have a strange manner of flight. They fly in a fashion that recalls the pterodactyls, those extraordinary flying reptiles (the pterosaur was probably the best example) that existed above five hundred million years ago during the period of the earth's history that is known as the Cretaceous.

Pelicans are unbelievable birds. The adults say nothing. They are absolutely dumb. The young are evocative.

The young, which are born characteristically on dreadfully dangerous nursery grounds, enter their life clad in a black skin, than which nothing could be worse for survival. When through circumstances, their parents are away, they can die from heat stroke in a matter of ten minutes. The writer once checked the temperatures of a Brown Pelican rookery and ascertained that the reading was one hundred and forty-three degrees Fahrenheit, a degree of temperature fatal in the time that it would take to photograph a single Pelican's nest.

Birds often execute quite elaborate ceremonies in "changing the guard" where both parents contribute to the operation of incubating the eggs. Chapman thus describes this ritual for the Brown Pelican:

"As a rule the bird on the nest is not attended by its mate, who may be feeding, bathing, resting on the shore, or sailing high in the air. The returning bird alights near the nest and, with bill pointed to the zenith advances slowly, waving its head from side to side. At the same time the sitting bird sticks its bill vertically into the nest, twitches its half-spread wings, and utters a low, husky, gasping *chuck*, the only note I have ever heard issue from the throat of an adult wild Brown Pelican. After five or six wand-like passes of its upraised head, the advancing bird pauses, when both birds, with apparent unconcern begin to preen their feathers, and a moment later the bird that has been on duty steps off the nest, and the new comer at once takes its place."

It is to the writer an extremely remarkable fact that before the young are born (hatched from their shell), they begin to



The feeding of the next generation of our State bird is a complicated matter. These Brown Pelicans were photographed by Dr. A. M. Bailey on Mud Lumps off Main Pass, Louisiana. (After Bird Life of Louisiana, published by this department.)

call for their parents. The subsequent behavior of the young has been well described by Murphy (1936):

"Their first squirmings and wiggings in the free air are accompanied by grunts, to be succeeded by the feeding call, which Chapman describes as a piercing scream. While the young are still small and unfeathered the adults spend much time standing between them and the sun with spread wings, giving their offspring the solace of shade. The impulse behind this is a blind one, however, for if a camera or other strange object distracts the adults they will stand in the same attitude on the side of the nest away from the sun, spreading their wings so as to cast a shadow on the bare ground where the unfortunate chicks can derive no benefit. As soon as the young can walk, they flop over the side of the nest and stagger doggedly

about, falling over obstacles and getting tangled up in every vine they encounter. Their peregrinations seem to be aimless within a limited space; the only sound they make is a hiss."

The confusion of a Pelican colony cannot easily be described. With the young still loquacious and using every vocal device to state that they are starving to death, they become so completely mixed in roving flocks that since they are so utterly similar in appearance it would seem impossible that their parents do identify and feed them. The explanation appears to be that the offspring are identified by voice and at the same time the young in some way certainly not yet ascertained do reciprocally identify their silent parents. It is the surmise of the writer that some supersonic vibration may be used by the parents. The investigation of this would involve a highly com-

plicated piece of technical research that might or might not add something of value to the sum of human knowledge. It is my secretary's opinion that there still exists the possibility of distinction by odor, which has been well demonstrated in the discrimination of young in insects by purely olfactory stimuli, might be the key to the pattern of order that exists in a superficially chaotic turmoil. This again, however, is not easy of experimental analysis since the laboratory techniques of distinguishing thousands of differences in odor which are utterly imperceptible to human beings is complex and difficult of control.

Breeding Habits

The vocal pattern of a Brown Pelican nesting colony is extraordinary. The young, always hungry when wakeful, emit continuous outcries for food, while the adult Pelicans could probably be called flying giraffes because like the giraffe, he and she emit no sound. The contrast of silence and uproar is unforgettable. It remains as an easy task for some distinguished Louisiana musician to compose a State symphony based on the music of the adult Pelican.

The immediate domestic life of the Brown Pelican involves many odd characteristics since the birds are subject even in Louisiana to such severely high temperatures that they actually have to flap their "pouches" as a means of getting enough oxygen and perhaps in some measure cooling themselves off. The writer recorded the temperature on the sand in the middle of a Brown Pelican colony on North Island, Louisiana, in late June and found that it read 143 degrees Fahrenheit. As will later appear, it seems incredible that the young, newly emerged birds should be featherless and provided with black skins, an integument that could scarcely be more efficient in accomplishing their death since the absorption of the infrared rays is almost completely efficient.

Pelican eggs hatch in about thirty days. The incubating parents assume, as Murphy (1936) recording William's observations has pointed out, three characteristic positions:

"In the most common, the head is thrown back between the shoulders, with the bill pointing horizontally forward. The second is the so-called posture of sleep, with the head turned and the bill lying along the full length of the back, partly covered by the scapulars. In very hot weather the pelicans sometimes hold the head straight up in the perching position, with the bill turned downward but not quite touching the breast, the mandibles parted and the pouch palpitating. The monotony of incubation is relieved by frequent exercise and preening operations. Sometimes the sitting birds turn their pouches inside out by spreading the rami of the mandible and pressing the bottom of the pouch against the convexity of the

(Continued on Page 24)

BUSINESS GOES TO THE DOGS

By Tom Farley

EVER since man's best friend joined the family circle on equal terms, he has been under the admiring scrutiny of countless thousands of merchants and professional men who know well enough that dogs mean business—at present, several hundred million dollars' worth annually. The figure gets somewhat larger every few years, for as man steps up his own standard of living, he elevates his dog's, too.

Anyone who thinks that Rover lives on table scraps, provides all his own clothes, sleeps where convenient, and heals himself when he's sick, is out of step with the times. Today, 17 million dog owners (2 million more than in 1940) write their 22 million dogs into the budget for such items as feeding, clothing, housing, registering, grooming, photographing, showing, amusing, doctoring, and burying. For some statistics:

Dog owners bought in the neighborhood of a billion pounds of canned dog food, and about 360 million pounds of various types of dry food, during 1950.

"The Fancy," as dog fanciers are known in the trade, paid \$622,577 last year to register 251,813 dogs of gentle birth in the American Kennel Club, the canine equivalent of Burke's Peerage. They paid another \$233,892.02 to the A. K. C. to cover a variety of handling fees and book work.

In an average year, the Fancy spends \$2 million just to attend dog shows. Last year 634 such shows were held around the country, in which 172,000 dogs competed for prizes ranging from \$2 to nearly \$20,000. Plus, of course, one of the thousands of blue ribbons which are mass-produced to add color to the occasion.

Those who regard the relation between pooch and master as a private affair will be startled to learn the facts of organized dogdom. In addition to the A. K. C., there's the American Field which records the pedigrees of 25,000 sporting dogs a year, and the United Kennel Club which registers some dogs that the others don't recognize. In addition, there are over 100 associations dedicated to the preservation, promotion and purity of individual breeds.

The American Kennel Club, incidentally, recognizes 111 different breeds of canine purity, and the A. K. C. registration figures are the accepted index for the rise or fall in popularity of each breed. At the end of 1950, American Cocker Spaniels continued to enjoy a very commanding lead in the popularity poll; Cocker in 1950 made up nearly 25 per cent of all registered dogs. Behind them, with less than half as many registrants, came Beagles. The next eight breeds, in the order of their popularity, were Boxers, Collies, Dachshunds, Bostonians, Chihuahuas, Pekingese, Shepherds, and Pomeranians.

More than 100 American and British magazines are devoted to dogs, and two popular columns on dog care and training are widely syndicated among newspapers. The Tom Farley radio shows, a series of 26 weekly forums which are aimed at educating, entertaining, and assisting dog owners, are aired over some 500 stations in the U. S. And many other newspapers and radio stations run features by local authorities on dogs.

National Dog Week, with Lauritz Melchior as general chairman, was observed in 1950 in more than 3,000 communities and the National Dog Welfare Guild, which sponsors it, maintains a year-round office to carry on its work. The Dog Welfare Guild has a standing offer of \$1,000 reward to the individual who can come up with a satisfactory treatment or cure for rabies, chronic chorea, or any of several other canine diseases.

Although urban living presents many problems to dog owners, 38 per cent of the U. S. dog population lives in cities. Half the nation's dogs live on farms, and the remaining 12 per cent in rural non-farm areas. The average dog, figuring in everything from Great Danes to Pekingese, eats a pound of food a day, or half as much as a person. Of 6,000 dog-owning families studied by the Psychological Corporation, 26 per cent reported that Brother fed the dog; 22 per cent said Sister, 24 per cent gave the job to Dad. But pinch-hitter for them all was Mother, who feeds the family pet about 73 per cent of the time.

Makers of dog food are currently spending impressive sums not only on advertising and promotion but on nutritional research and taste preference.

Manufacturers of first grade canned types, for instance, claim their product is the only completely balanced diet for man or beast sold in a single package. Canners test a dog-food formula first on fast-breeding white rats and hamsters, and only later, in kennels kept specifically for the purpose. Several of the companies have records of generations of dogs that have existed on a single formula from the day they were weaned until they died, years later, of plain old age. A few years ago, one company announced the results of tests on 300 dogs of different breeds in which measurements, bone structure, coat, rate of growth and size of litters were all recorded. Theoretically, the food could have achieved the same results on human beings with the addition of Vitamin C, which dogs do not require.

Government gets into the act, too; an entire section of the Department of Agriculture is devoted to inspecting and certifying better brands of canned foods.

Manufacturers who accept this service and meet the rather high specifications for content and cleanliness are entitled to carry the Department's seal of approval. In 1950, more than 486 million pounds of these better (and slightly more expensive) foods were produced. This was more than 2½ times the amount produced in 1947, the year in which permissive inspection of certified dog foods was begun by the Department of Agriculture.

Food manufacturers and grocers are not the only businessmen interested in dogs. Dog boardinghouse keepers charge about \$30 a month for the care and feeding of Rover when the family goes away, and 1200 hotels stand ready to serve him if he travels with his master. The half dozen top dog handlers in the U. S. earn close to \$25,000 a year teaching show dogs how to behave. Newest development in canine education is the instruction of owners in modern principles of dog pedagogy. Several hundred teachers hold regular classes in which the dogs are enrolled with their masters. In the course of eight or nine sessions, dogs learn the basic rules of good manners, including toilet training and respect for nylons. Masters learn how to command and punish in a way that will inspire the dog's confidence.

Doctors as well as teachers render professional services to dogs. Many of the nation's 14,000 veterinarians work in dog hospitals where the latest drugs and aseptic techniques are used. Most of the operations performed on humans are also performed on dogs, including Caesarian sections. Fees are about one-fourth those for human surgery.

A natural result of the expensive care, feeding and thought devoted to dogs has been an increased dollar valuation of the animals themselves. Prize winning aristocrats of fashionable breeds like Cocker Spaniels, Boxers, Chihuahuas, German Shepherds, Beagles, and Collies bring upwards of \$1,000, and sales at \$5,000 have been recorded. Dogs have been valued as high as \$7,000 for purposes of taxation. However, very good dogs can be bought for less than \$500, and well descended puppies are often sold for less than \$100.

The goat-sucker, or nightjar, is a bird around which a number of old legends have been woven. The ancients believed it sucked goats at night, that the goats immediately "dried up" and lost their sight.

The narwhal is called the sea unicorn because of the long, spiral and tapered tusk that grows from its upper jaw. This is sometimes as long as ten feet. Its purpose has never been determined. Ironically, the tusk is often fashioned into a harpoon used in the hunting of these sea animals.

THE SOUND AND THE FURY

THE QUESTION of what causes the "bang" or noise from a fired gun has always intrigued a considerable segment of the shooting public. Many gunners have taken it for granted that the noise is made by the "explosion" of the powder in the charge. Others have not been so willing to accept the theories of laymen whose opinions lack the backing of scientific knowledge.

Dr. C. S. Cummings, supervisor of physics and ballistics research, Remington Arms Company, Inc., recently wrote an article describing some experiments on the analysis of the sound from a .22 rim fire cartridge. These studies revealed that, once the velocity of this bullet exceeds the velocity of sound in air (approximately 1100 feet per second), the major portion of the noise arises from the so-called "bow wave" or "shock wave" originating with the bullet and the contribution of the expanding gases at the muzzle is relatively small. It was also shown that, as the velocity of the bullet increases, the loudness of the "crack" or "bang" increases rapidly up to a bullet velocity of about 1300 feet per second, after which it continues to increase, but at a slower rate.

The shooter's deep interest in this subject is indicated in the response to Dr. Cummings' article. One of the interesting questions arising from it was whether or not the exit of the bullet from the barrel creates a vacuum in the barrel into which the air then rushes to cause the noise.

"This is not the case," says Dr. Cummings, "In general, it can be said that when a gun is fired the noise arises from two sources. One source is the shock wave created by the passage of the bullet through the air, and is present whenever the velocity of the bullet is greater than the velocity of sound in air, which, as noted on the preceding page, is approximately 1100 fps. The other source of noise is the sudden, violent expansion of the gas from the gun barrel into the atmosphere when the bullet leaves the muzzle. Thus, to an observer sufficiently distant from the gun the discharge of a firearm will register itself upon his ear as first of all a sharp 'crack,' which is due to the shock wave originating with the bullet, followed shortly thereafter by a 'boom' which is the percussion wave sent out from the muzzle of the gun due to the violent expansion of the powder gases. The idea that the noise from a gun is due to air rushing in to fill a vacuum in the barrel is not supported by the facts.

"Suppose we go into a little more detail concerning the chain of events accom-

panying the discharge of a firearm and what happens as these disturbances are propagated through the air. As the bullet starts to move down the gun barrel, it pushes the air in the barrel ahead of it out the muzzle, compressing it and causing a mild shock wave to be formed at the muzzle of the gun before the bullet exit. Shortly after this, exceedingly swift gas which has leaked past the bullet or shot charge in the barrel leaves the muzzle of the gun, very closely followed by the projectile.

"At the instant that the projectile emerges from the muzzle the powder gas behind it in the barrel is still at a very high pressure, of the order of several thousand pounds per square inch. This gas immediately starts to stream out of the barrel and expand and quickly attains a velocity considerably in excess of that of the bullet. This gives rise to a turbulent region and a sound wave which is in advance of the bullet, moving at a higher velocity than the bullet itself. However, the impact of the exhaust gases with the stationary atmosphere soon slows the velocity of the expanding powder gases below that of the bullet and in a very short distance the bullet overtakes the sound wave due to expansion of these gases and can be seen in the spark photographs to proceed ahead of the explosion wave with the formation of a shock wave of its own, providing, of course, that the bullet velocity is greater than the velocity of sound.

"The shock wave originating with the bullet must, of course, travel with the velocity of the bullet in the vicinity of the bullet's nose. However, as the shock wave leaves the vicinity of the bullet, the velocity very rapidly decreases to essentially normal sound velocity in air. This gives rise to the conical pattern so familiar in spark photographs of bullets in flight.

"The explosion wave originating from the expansion of the gases at the muzzle is likewise advancing with a velocity which rapidly drops to that of sound and lags behind the bullet wave.

"The exact details of the flow of the powder gases from the gun barrel following the emergence of the bullet are extremely complex. Suffice it to say, however, that the exit of the bullet does not cause a vacuum in the barrel which then gives rise to a noise when the atmosphere rushes in. This should be more or less obvious, because of course it is the high pressure of the gases in the barrel that pushes the bullet out. But even if there were such a vacuum created, the contribution to the noise would be much too feeble to account for the observed blast. The loudness of the sound caused by the air rushing into the evacuated barrel would

be essentially constant and would not depend very much on barrel length or powder charge. To anyone who has stood in the vicinity of a rifle whose barrel has been sawed off 8 or 10 inches, the idea that the barrel length does not affect the resultant noise is, of course, preposterous.

"There is experimental evidence of a slight temporary rarefaction in the barrel immediately following the expulsion of the powder gases (NOT the expulsion of the bullet). This, however, is due to the essentially complex nature of the expulsion of the high pressure gases from the barrel and will have no detectable effects on the explosion wave.

"It might interest the shooter to know that the erroneous idea that the noise of a firearm is due to the inrush of air into the evacuated barrel is anything but new. As a matter of fact, the story is told by C. Cranz in his Textbook of Ballistics, that a certain mathematician named N. Tartaglia published a book on ballistics in 1537 and in all seriousness reported that after firing several shots a barrel becomes warm and sucks in the powder gas, so that the subsequent shots have a shorter range. To prove his point Tartaglia tells a story which should qualify him as all-time president of the International Tellers of Tall Tales as follows: 'Once when several large pieces were fired, a dog ran up and stuck his snout into one that was still hot; the heat pulled the dog's head into the barrel, so that the dog was almost suffocated, and it was with great effort that he was pulled away from the gun.'

WASHINGTON PARISH GAR RODEO ON NOW

A two-month garfish rodeo is now on in Washington parish, under the sponsorship of the Washington Parish Conservation League, and it is expected that before the rodeo ends on September 20, many of these destructive predators will have been taken from the parish's streams, lakes and bayous.

Many attractive prizes have been offered and everyone in the parish is invited to participate. Officials of the League have advised that gars may be entered in the contest regardless of where they are caught.

Weighing and counting stations are located in several Bogalusa stores. Ned Haik, president of the Conservation League, and Pat Stephens, secretary and treasurer, are in charge of the rodeo.

GREATEST RODEO SETS MANY RECORDS



Part of the crowd of more than seven thousand which attended the prize awarding ceremonies of the 1951 Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo, at Grand Isle, at the windup of this year's contest.

THE greatest Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo of 'em all is now history. And what history! The 1951 renewal of this annual fishing contest, held at Grand Isle on July 19, 20 and 21, saw records broken in virtually every detail, from the number of entries to size and number of fish caught. Official compilation shows a record number of entrants, 1,422, and a record number of boats, 326, were entered in this anglers' jubilee. What the records don't show is the fact that equally as many boats were in the rodeo fleet and not registered, some of them small, some converted shrimp trawlers charted by eager contestants, and some brought to the rodeo by sportsmen who registered themselves but didn't register their craft.

They'll be talking about the 1951 Grand Isle fishing rodeo for a long, long time. And they have a lot to talk about!

The number of tarpon caught during the three-day event—34—is not only a rodeo record but is believed to be a record for any tarpon rodeo held in the United States. The old rodeo record was 21 taken in 1941.

The rodeo record for the number of silver kings landed in one day was smashed on two consecutive days when 14 were boated the first day and 11 were brought to gaff the second day. The old record of nine fish in one day, set in 1941, was tied on the final day.

Rodeo records were set in three classifications of fish. Jack A. Brown of Grand Isle brought in a beautifully colored bull

By Mel Washburn

(Director, Division of Education and
Publicity, Department of Wild
Life and Fisheries)

dolphin that tipped the scales at 20½ pounds, surpassing the 12-pound, 1-ounce dolphin caught by W. J. Fandison in 1949. L. E. Hawsey's 34-pound jack crevalle was three pounds heavier than the 31-pounder with which R. M. Williams won in 1947. Three of the Jewfish weighed this year bettered the previous recordholder, Warren E. Lopez's 195½-pounder caught last year. The winning "jew" of Zlyko Franks of New Orleans scaled 294½ pounds.

More jackfish than even the oldest natives and fishermen can remember were killed during the rodeo. Weighmasters lost count the first day, but it was estimated that more than a 1000 were brought in for weighing on that day alone.

Ex-Governor James A. Noe, captor of the third largest tarpon, a 124½-pounder, was winner of the grand prize, a 1951 Plymouth Sedan. His name was drawn from a box containing the names of 53 prize winners in the 12 classes in which fish were entered. There were no sailfish caught, but Mrs. Ed Whitney of Chauvin, La., had one on the end of her line briefly Saturday.

Gordon M. Howell was announced as the winner of the all-around fisherman prize, a trophy donated by the New Orleans

Brewers' Association. He compiled the most points with a first place in the king mackerel class with a 24½-pounder and a second place in the bonito class with a 5-pound, 2-ounce specimen. Nestor Mills was drawn as the winner of the entrance prize, a beautiful painting of a jumping fish.

Tarpon champion was Stanley Tinney of Boutte, La. He caught a 153¼-pound giant Saturday morning. It measured 7 feet 3 inches in length and 3 feet 2 inches in girth.

Runnerup was Alex Plaisance of Golden Meadow, La., with a 125¼-pounder. Mrs. Lester J. Plaisance, also of Golden Meadow, whose 121¼-pound tarpon led through the first two days, finished fourth.

Four anglers caught two tarpon each during the rodeo. In the draw for the Grand Isle Chamber of Commerce trophy, Lloyd Lerille of Westwego, won out. This was the first time in five years that this trophy, for the most tarpon, was awarded. No angler has been able to catch more than one silver king since 1946. Others getting two tarpon were Mrs. Plaisance, Louis Marcomb and Mrs. Jack Brown.

A lady was among the first-place prize winners. Miss Suzette Cook won the speckled trout division with a 3¾-pounder.

Although he had boasted weeks in advance that he was going to win this rodeo, probably no one was more surprised than Stanley Tinney when he actually did win it. Of course, Jimmy Noe was considerably surprised when a tarpon grabbed his

lure, Saturday afternoon. He was further surprised that he had stamina enough to outfight the fish, and he was still further surprised that Hugh M. Wilkinson, from whose "Moonflower" the ex-governor was fishing, would not let him turn the tarpon loose as he wanted after a half-hour of what seemed to Jimmy was going to be a losing battle for him. When he finally brought his fish to the weighing scales he was more shocked than surprised when it landed him in second place. But that situation lasted less than three minutes. Alex Plaisance, mayor of Golden Meadow, was next in line at the scales, and his tarpon topped Jimmy's by a pound and a quarter, and Mr. Noe was crowded down to third place. He wasn't surprised, however, at the finale of prize awarding ceremonies on the final night. He was shocked speechless for once in his life when he was drawn as the winner for the 1951 Plymouth sedan, the capital prize of the rodeo.

Stanley Tinney's victory is a story of contradictions. Several weeks before the rodeo, the governing committee of the rodeo, on its way to a meeting at Grand Isle, stopped in Tinney's tavern at Boutte and found Stanley with his counter covered with assorted lures, wires, gadgets and whatnots dear to the heart of a fisherman. "I'm getting ready to win that rodeo," Stanley boasted, "you might just as well have 'em put my name on the trophy and be done with it."

But after fishing hard for the first two days of the contest, Stanley was the only one in his party who hadn't landed a fish of some sort . . . who hadn't even felt the tug of a strike. "I can't even get a bump," he complained.

But shortly before noon of the third day he got his "bump" . . . and he made the best of it by landing the second largest tarpon ever taken on a Grand Isle rodeo.

Ernest S. Clements, commissioner of wild life and fisheries, fishing in his first Grand Isle rodeo, proved a contradiction when he ran out of tackle instead of bait, but after securing a new supply he landed several big fish, but not big enough to get into the prize list. The ones which tore up his tackle, however, would certainly have put him in the winner class.

Dr. Lacey Bordelon, of Alexandria, was another destined to be different. While fellow fishermen aboard the "Nutria" were landing jackfish, he latched onto a "pool shark." At least that's what Dr. Edward Brown, New Orleans dentist and his fishing buddy, insisted that it was, and no one can deny that "Doc" Brown knows his fish.

Throughout each day the weigh master was kept busy as boats landed and brought in fish. Two unusual catches were made when Dr. R. W. Collins, Houma, and Lee Adams of Lafitte boated pelicans. The birds dived at the lures, and each was caught in the beak and both were landed after hard struggles and later released.

Saturday night thousands of persons gathered at the East end of the island to watch the awarding of prizes and witness the closing ceremonies of the rodeo.

Addresses were delivered by Frank A. Von der Haar, president; Urban Wilkinson, general chairman; and Hugh M. Wilkinson, founder of the rodeo and donor of the premier tarpon trophy. Commissioner Ernest S. Clements made the principal address of the evening, assuring all of Louisiana's sportsmen of his department's desire to perpetuate field and stream sports by his restocking program now in progress, and congratulating the sponsors of the Grand Isle rodeo on having developed this contest into the biggest event of its kind in America.

President Von der Haar and General Chairman Wilkinson were lavish in their praise of the men who made this year's rodeo the great event that it was. Both expressed their appreciation of the fine cooperation given the rodeo sponsors by the U. S. Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Louisiana State Police, and other agencies whose efforts added materially to the rodeo's success. Especial stress was laid on the cooperation of the Grand Isle civic leaders, and the aid given by Bertout Cheramie and his sons, whose Bayou Rigaard establishment was rodeo headquarters.

Winners in the various fish classes were as follows:

Tarpon—First, Stanley Pinney of Boutte, La., 153 1/4 lbs. Second, Alex Plaisance, Golden Meadow, 125 3/4 lbs. Third, James A. Noe, Monroe, 124 1/2 lbs. Fourth, Mrs. Lester Plaisance, Golden Meadow, 120 3/4 lbs.

Cobia—First, G. Ed. Whitney of Chauvin, La., 40 lbs. Second, A. D. Meador, 39 3/4 lbs. Third, Fred Bonebreak, St. Louis, 39 1/2 lbs. Fourth, Nolan Vinet, 37 lbs.

King Mackerel—First, G. M. Howell of New Orleans, 24 1/2 lbs. Second, Allan Holloway of Albuquerque, N. M., 19 3/4 lbs. Third, Jack Brown of Grand Isle, 19 1/4 lbs. Fourth, Edgar M. Thompson, 17 1/2 lbs.

Spanish Mackerel—First, Frank Smith of Gulfport, Miss., 3 1/2 lbs. Second, Easton Duplantis of Houma, La., 3 lbs. 6 oz. Third, Elizabeth Wiley, 3 lbs. 3 oz. Fourth, Frank Smith, 3 lbs. 2 oz.

Jack Crevalle—First, L. E. Hawsey of Baton Rouge, 34 lbs. Second, Ken Pemplain of Donaldsonville, La., 31 1/2 lbs. Third and fourth between the Rev. G. Massey and Royal Pellegrin, both of Golden Meadow, with a 30-lb. catch.

Redfish—First, Wilbert Collins, 13 3/4 lbs. Second, Nelson Cheramie, 11 lbs. 7 oz. Third, Lee McCall, 10 3/4 lbs. Fourth, Harold Collins, 10 lbs. 4 oz.

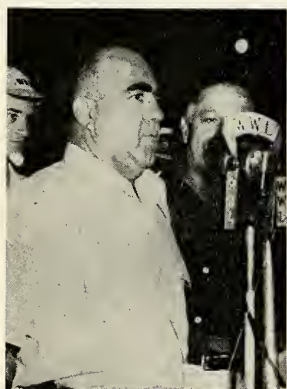
Bonita—First, Larry Uzee of Raceland, 16 lbs. Second, Gordon Howell of New Orleans, 5 lbs. 2 oz. Third, Mrs. Larry Uzee of Raceland, 5 lbs. 1 oz. Fourth, a tie between Buddy Leveque and Garry Brown, 4 lbs. 14 oz.

Dolphin—First, Jack Brown of Grand Isle, 20 lbs. 4 oz. Second, Harold J. Cook of New Orleans, 4 lbs. 1 oz. Third, Dr. Willard Ellender of Houma, 3 lbs. 13 oz. Fourth, Nolan Vinet, 3 lbs. 12 oz.

Sheepshead—First, Bob Lockett, Jr. of New Orleans, 7 lbs. 12 oz. Second, Charles Rapelet, 6 lbs. 6 oz. Third, Ella Chera-

(Continued on Page 26)

GRAND ISLE TARPON RODEO														
RESULTS TO: JULY 21 1951														
DATE	CAUGHT BY	TARPON	MACKEREL		COBIA	JACK	RED	BONITA	SPANISH	SHARK	HEAD	SHEEPSHEAD	DOLPHIN	TRIPLE
			SPANISH	KING										
21	ST. TINNEY	7-3	153 1/4											
21	A. PLAISANCE	6-10	125 3/4											
21	GEN. JAMES NOE	6-6	124 1/2											
19	MRS. L. PLAISANCE	6-9	120 3/4											
21	SUZETTE COOK											3' 12"		
19	FRANK SMITH			3 1/2										
19	WILBERT COLLINS					13 3/4								
21	B. LOCKETT, JR.										7-12			
20	Z. FRANK													275
19	G.M. HOWELL			24 1/2										
21	GE. WHITNEY				40									
21	LARRY UZEE							16						
19	L.E. HAWSEY					34								
20	F. DARCEY													15 1/2
21	JACK A. BROWN										20 1/4			



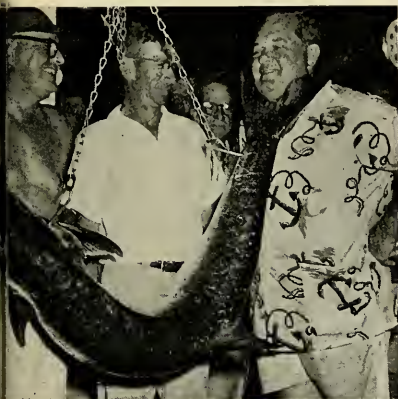
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d Isle Tarpon Rodeo, held at Grand Isle July 19, 20 and 21. Extreme left (left to right) Hugh M. Wilkinson presenting to Stanley Tinney, Boutte, La., the 1951 champion, while Ernest S. Clements, President Frank A. Von der Haar and General Chairman Urban Wilkinson, look on.

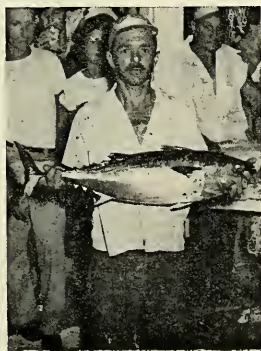


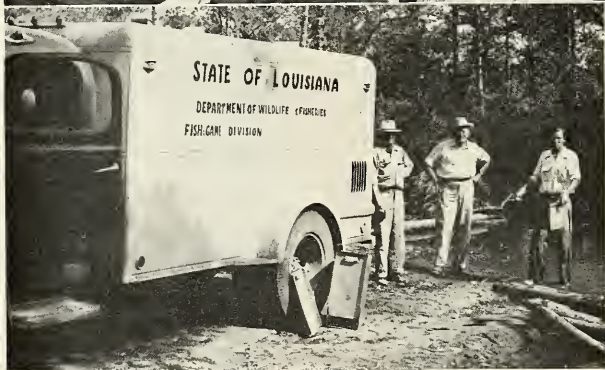
t, Mrs. Harry Williams cuts the birthday cake at Laffite, before the rodeo fleet sailed for Grand Isle. Assist- Urban Wilkinson, general chairman of the rodeo, Harry Williams, Frank A. Von der Haar, president of the Edward Brown, Mel Washburn, and (on extreme right) Frank A. Von der Haar, Jr., assistant secretary. In t to right) Hugh M. Wilkinson, James Whitmire, and James E. Noe, with the tarpon that won Mr. Noe third test. In the next scene Jack Brown, of Grand Isle, is shown with the 20-pound dolphin, largest ever shown on him first prize in that classification. And on the extreme right is shown Secretary of State Wade Martin, holding up the five jackfish brought in by his party on the final day of the rodeo.

picture is shown President Frank A. Von der Haar, on the right, introducing Ernest S. Clements, commissioner Fisheries, who made the principal address at the prize awarding ceremonies on the final night. In the scene shown part of the boatload of jackfish brought in by President Von der Haar's party on the first day. Left e are; Arthur deRouen, Louis Leveque (looking down), Richard Juge, boy in foreground; Jack Tittle, Little Von der Haar. On right-center is G. E. Whitney with his prize winning 40-pound cobia.

n row, on left, is part of first day's catch of 14 tarpon. Next is Stanley Tinney with his 153 1/4-pound prize Next is R. L. Lockett, Jr., (on right) with his first prize sheephead. The next scene shows Larry Uzee with hich took top prize, and on the extreme right is shown a pile of the more than 1,000 jackfish brought in dur- ing the rodeo.

—Photos by Joe Cermak, Mel Washburn and Bill Coran.



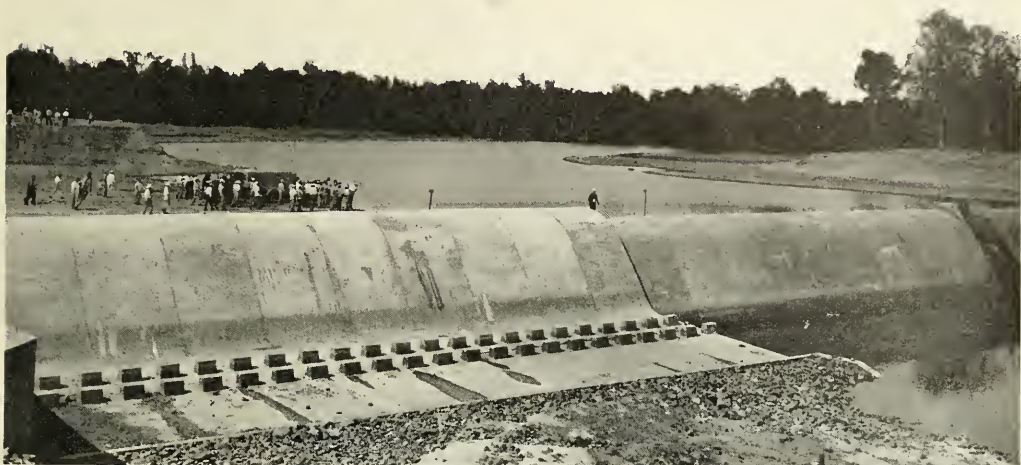


(Top left) James Rhoades, chief of a rescue crew of the Fish and Game Division of the Louisiana Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, with one of the large black bass liberated in Anacoco Lake, when the Anacoco dam was dedicated on June 6th. (Top right) Ernest S. Clements, commissioner of Wild Life and Fisheries, making the principal address at the dedication of the new dam. (Left center) One of the new thermal trucks used by the department of Wild Life and Fisheries to transport rescued fish. (Lower left) Liberating adult bass in Anacoco Lake during the dedication ceremonies. (Right below) State Representative J. H. Anderson of Vernon parish, addressing the huge crowd during the dam dedication ceremonies.

Photos by Edward Morgan



NEW ANACOCO LAKE DAM IS DEDICATED



New dam at Anacoco Lake which was dedicated, on June 6, with a giant barbecue, public addresses by state officials, and the liberation of bass and perch as new stock for the lake.

WITH the completion and dedication of the new Anacoco Prairie State Game and Fish preserve, and the new Anacoco lake dam, another step was taken in the progress of fish and game restoration in Louisiana.

Making the principal address as the representative of Governor Earl K. Long, Ernest S. Clements, commissioner of Wild Life and Fisheries for Louisiana, reviewed the work of his department in its restocking program, one of the component parts being the new Anacoco lake dam and the new fish and game preserve, the completion of which cost \$486,000. The formal opening was celebrated on June 6th, with several hundred representative citizens of that area in attendance, both at the mammoth barbecue lunch served at the farm of J. Hugh Knight which preceded the dedication ceremonies, and at the program itself.

Speaking on behalf of Governor Long, Commissioner Clements emphasized that the chief executive wished to commend all those who had any part in the project from the beginning, for the time and effort they had spent in its accomplishment, and for the moral support they had given the project from its inception.

Outlining the advantages of the new fish and game preserve, Commissioner Clements pointed to the thermal trucks of the department of Wild Life and Fisheries, which had transported adult bass and perch to the dam site to be liberated in the program of restocking Anacoco Lake with sport fish, and explained that this was only one of many such occasions recorded throughout

Louisiana during each year under his administration's restocking program.

"Up to the present time we have rescued and removed to waters such as these more than 6,000,000 fish," the commissioner said. "By doing this we enhance the fishing pleasure of everyone in the community where this restocking occurs and at the same time we induct new stock into waters that had become void of bass and perch in any great quantity."

Commissioner Clements also pointed out the benefit the new dam would provide in the protection of Anacoco lake's fish population, and the guarantee it provided that these fish would always have proper habitat.

At the conclusion of the oratorical part of the dedication program, James Rhodes, chief of the fish rescue crew of the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, with his assistants, began the liberation of thousands of bass and perch brought to the scene in the new thermal truck, one of six now being used by the department, and there was general enthusiasm as bass weighing two pounds and more were dumped into the lake, as a part of the dedicatory ceremonies.

Col. J. Lester White, director of the Louisiana department of public works, also present for the dedication, described the new preserve as "a job well done."

About 400 people were present at the new lake, about 10 miles west of Leesville, for the ceremonies.

"This is an extraordinary project. Here is a spillway and dam creating a lake four miles long, over one mile wide, covering almost 3,000 acres with an average depth of nine feet," said White.

Introduced by State Rep. J. H. Anderson of Leesville. Col. White, said, "industries will be attracted to this area, where the new dam is 'accumulating' water at the rate of 30 million gallons a day."

"Industry goes where 'water is,' he pointed out.

Jean King of Leesville is chairman of the preserve, and he spoke briefly thanking landowners who gave rights-of-way for the new lake.

Those officials of the contracting firm, the engineers, supervisors and other workers present were introduced by White.



A catch of 25 bass taken in Earvin Lake, north of Bastrop, La., by (left to right) John "Red" McIntyre, Dick McIntyre, Ray McIntyre and Virgil McIntyre.



(Upper Left) New dock at North landing in Chicot State Park. (Upper right) Swimming area at the group camp in Chicot State Park. (Center) One of the "Vacation Cabins" in Chicot State Park, which are proving so popular with summer vacationers. All of these scenes picture the natural beauty of the park with its lakes, beaches, forest areas and modern facilities to make the visitor's stay a delight long to remember.

The new boat dock at the South Landing in Chicot State Park, only recently completed and which already is proving one of the most popular features of this state recreation spot. Fishermen, especially, find this facility a most welcome one, giving them a most excellent landing as well as source which provides boats for their angling excursions.

—All photos by Bas'er Studio.



LOUISIANA STATE PARKS GO FORWARD

DURING the last three years the State Parks Commission has been engaged in a construction program designed to provide many additional recreational facilities for the citizens of the State. The department is guided by a governing board of eleven members, of which Ernest S. Clements, Director of the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, is chairman. The other members of the commission are: Governor Earl K. Long, George Wallace, Colonel J. Lester White, Miss Lucille May Grace, Miss Sarah Butler, C. O. Holland, Adraste Landreneau, C. T. Bienvenu, John Leveson and Clay Prieto. Sidney Staring is director of the commission. The office of the commission is located at 200 North Boulevard in Baton Rouge.

Increased legislative appropriations by the present administration have made the improvements possible. The total appropriations during the current biennium, including all special appropriations and the operating funds, total \$581,000.00. For the 1948-50 biennium, a total of \$460,000.00 was appropriated. This represents an increase of approximately 45% and 15% respectively over the 1946-48 biennium.

There are now twelve state park areas in the Louisiana state park system, the newest of which is Lake Bistineau State Park, located in Webster Parish on the western shore of Lake Bistineau. It is being developed to provide recreational facilities at a modest cost for the citizens of northwest Louisiana. This site of approximately 700 acres of well-wooded rolling land is excellent for park and recreational purposes. It has a high shoreline overlooking Clark's Bayou which provides splendid vacation cabin sites. Five vacation cabins have been completed and were opened on June 1st, of this year. They are furnished with sturdy furniture which was made in the park shop building. Linens, dishes, cooking utensils, gas cook stoves and electric refrigeration are provided.

Duck hunting is an active sport on Lake Bistineau, and fishing on the lake is considered by many to be at its best in the winter. For this reason, gas heated winterized cabins which can be operated on a year around basis were constructed. Additional cabins will be built when more funds are made available.

Since fishing is the major attraction at Lake Bistineau, a large and rugged boat dock, with space for berthing 100 fishing boats has been provided. Thirty-five boats were made up in the park work shop last winter and placed in the lake this spring. An additional thirty-five will be completed during the coming winter.

A refreshment stand where cold drinks, cigarettes, ice and groceries may be purchased has been built between the boat

By William W. Wells

*(Assistant Director State Parks
Commission)*

dock and the picnic area. This building also includes public rest rooms.

A large picnic shelter which eventually will be converted into the recreational room of a park lodge building provides temporary shelter for picnickers. It is surrounded by a small picnic area which has already become overcrowded on week ends. Additional picnic shelters and a large picnic area, already planned, are a must at this park as soon as additional funds are available.

A small experimental beach and swimming area have been put into operation to determine whether or not swimming in the lake will be satisfactory. Future plans call for an organized group camp, additional cabins, riding stables, adequate swimming facilities and a greatly enlarged picnic area.

Two modern residences, one for the park superintendent and the other for the shop foreman, have been constructed near the shop as the nucleus of a well organized service area.

Behind the scenes and seldom thought of are the various utilities which had to be provided to make the park run. Buried in the ground are the water lines, gas lines and the sewage disposal system. Overhead is the electric distribution system. Surrounding the park is a hog proof wire fence. Leading into the park is a graded gravel road. All of these were accomplished in two short years with the sum of approximately \$65,000.00, much ingenuity and hard work, and the generosity and complete cooperation of the Webster and Bossier Parish Police Juries.

Chicot State Park needs no introduction to citizens of central Louisiana. Since the summer of 1943, many thousands of people have visited it each season. Vacationers this summer found the cabins much more comfortable due to the addition of a screened porch on each cabin and electric refrigeration. A new boat dock at the north landing was completed this spring and the boat dock at the south landing was completely rebuilt. A roughly graded parking area at the south landing will be completed and surfaced this fall.

In order to take care of the large crowds using the upper or north landing, a refreshment stand, complete with public rest-rooms, has been built. This necessitated the construction of an electric power line, a water system and a sewage system.

At the organized group camp a space was cleared in the lake to provide swimming for campers. Gravel and sand were put down to form a beach and the entire

area was roped off to separate it from the non-swimming area.

A new black top road giving access to the north landing will make that part of the park more readily available to Bunkie and hence to Alexandria.

Many additional cabins, a greatly enlarged picnic area, a park lodge, and suitable swimming facilities are planned for Chicot park in the near future.

Through the cooperation of the State Department of Highways, two of our established parks have been vastly improved by the black topping of the park roads. These are Chemin-A-Haut and Fontainebleau State Parks. The funds for this work were provided entirely by the Highway Department and represent an expenditure of many thousands of dollars over and above the appropriations made directly to the State Parks Commission.

At Fontainebleau a new group camp facility is being added. The former two-story CCC camp building is being converted to provide accommodations for twenty-six campers. Two dormitory rooms have been partitioned off on the second floor and two baths, a kitchen and dining room are provided on the first floor. It will be completed and in operation before this article appears in print.

At Chemin-A-Haut State Park a new superintendent's residence was completed about the middle of June to replace the house which was destroyed by fire earlier in the year. A new aluminum water tank and tower has also been purchased for installation at this park.

The most ambitious project constructed by the Commission during the current program is the recently completed swimming pool at Longfellow-Evangeline State Park, which together with the bathhouse, water well, sewage disposal system, access road and parking area, represents an expenditure of \$121,000. Plans and engineering supervision for the pool proper were provided at no cost to the State Parks Commission by the Department of Public Works. The resulting savings on planning and engineering made the construction of the pool possible. The town of St. Martinville provided the electric power line to the pool location at a cost of approximately \$2,000. The State of North Carolina through the courtesy of their State Park Division of the Department of Conservation made available at no cost, the bathhouse plans, which were adapted for use at the Longfellow-Evangeline Pool. The bathhouse, pool and water well were constructed under contract. However, when bids for the sewage disposal system, access road and parking area were received, they represented more money than was available for completing the project. After consulta-

(Continued on Page 23)



One of the ancient Indian mounds to be seen in the Marksville Prehistoric Indian park.



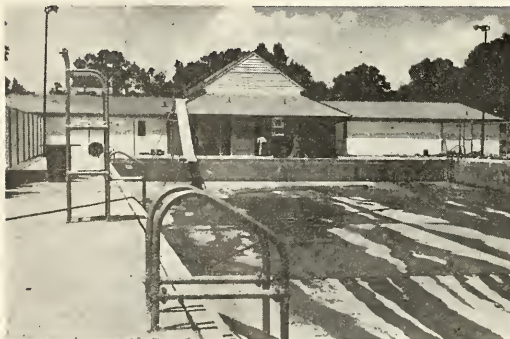
The Acadian Craft Shop in the Longfellow-Evangeline State Park at St. Martinsville, La.



The new natural history museum under construction at the Marksville Prehistoric Indian Park near Marksville, La.
—Photo by Rudy



The new residence for the superintendent at Chemin-A-Haut State Park.
—Photo by L. P. Resweber



New Swimming pool and bath house in the Longfellow-Evangeline State Park at St. Martinsville.



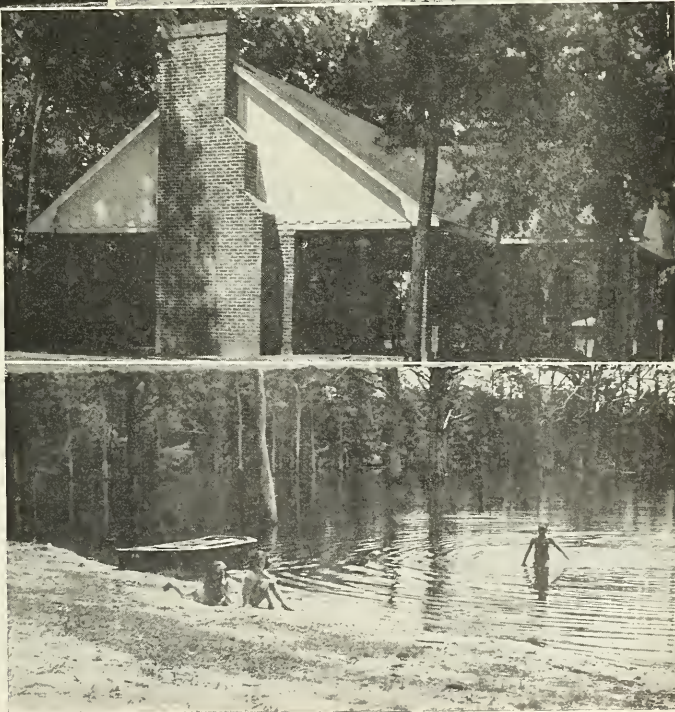
The restored plantation kitchen in the Audubon Memorial State Park near St. Francisville, La.



The refreshment building at the newly created Lake Bistineau State Park, one of the most delightful and rapidly becoming one of the most popular recreation areas in North-Central Louisiana. This shows the modern type of buildings and the conveniences provided for picnickers and vacationers.



(Upper left) The new boat dock and part of the supply of excellent boats to be found here for fishermen and boat riders. (Upper right) One of the vacation cabins on the lake elevation. (Center) The picnic shelter for convenience in inclement weather. And on the right below the new swimming area with sand beach, gradually deepening water so that wading is safe, and the most picturesque cypress trees in the background. Undoubtedly this is one of the most picturesque tourist spots in all Louisiana since the new state park has been developed and completed.



These scenes at the Abita Springs State Park show why this state developed area, under the State Parks Commission, is proving so popular. On the right is a picnic shelter that affords comfort in inclement weather and in the foreground is a barbecue pit that picnickers are enjoying every day. Installations like this, scattered throughout the park area, have made this recreation center second to none in the state.



(Left) This shows the new wading pool for children under construction. (Left Below) A completed wading pool in the Abita State Park, in which the youngsters find a safe and enjoyable pleasure throughout their picnic day. (Right Below) The pavilion at Abita, in which concerts, meetings, reunions and kindred gathering may be held, and which has been in use virtually every day during the summer seasons, since the park was completed.



LA. STATE PARKS . . .

(Continued from Page 19)

tion with two of our State Park engineers, it was decided to undertake the construction of these units by a State Park force account. Their untiring work and long hours far beyond the call of duty, have made the completion of the entire project possible. The Parks Commission is very deeply indebted to the St. Martin Police Jury for the splendid help they extended in loaning construction equipment and operators for finishing up the last phases of the work. Without their help it would have been impossible to put the pool into operation this season.

The construction of this project illustrates what can be accomplished through perfect cooperation. The State Parks Commission is very appreciative of the help which was given by the agencies mentioned above.

The Acadian Craft Shop at Longfellow-Evangeline is another example of what can be accomplished by cooperation. The State University through its extension service has developed an Acadian Craft Project under the able supervision of Miss Louise Olivier. The rapidly disappearing art of weaving, palmetto work, etc., has been revived and commercial outlets have been established for the crafts. This serves the very important purpose of perpetuating the native handicrafts and providing a good financial return for the craft workers. The Acadian Craft Shop in the park provides the most ideal outlet in existence for the sale of these crafts. Demonstrations in weaving and carding are also given by the hostess in charge. The shop was built two years ago entirely by the park maintenance force during the winter months. It is a replica of the very simplest type of Acadian houses found in the vicinity.

No area appeals more to the imagination than the Audubon Memorial Park located in West Feliciana Parish near St. Francisville. It occupies part of the Oakley Plantation where John James Audubon painted many pictures for his world famous "Birds of America". The old plantation house in its hauntingly beautiful setting is being repaired for use as an Audubon Museum. The development of this park has created nation-wide interest. The Garden Club of America has voted to give its founder's fund of \$1500. this year toward the restoration of the gardens. Even though the area is not completed and not open to the public, many local and out of state visitors find their way into the park for a preview.

The large kitchen behind the plantation house was completely rebuilt, with the aid of an old photograph, to resemble very closely the original building. It has three rooms, one of which will be the kitchen proper. One other room will be the plantation weaving room, and the other has been designed to serve as a craft and souvenir shop. A specially designed line of pottery and china featuring the Audubon Birds

was created by Irene Bernard for exclusive sale at this shop.

Much of the original furnishings of the house were also purchased and are being refinished to be placed back in their original locations.

Again the State Department of Highways and the West Feliciana Police Jury have contributed generously to the surfacing of the park road and the parking area.

Public sentiment and the usual interest in mineral springs have contrived to bring into the park system Abita Springs State Park at Abita Springs. It is a small but beautiful area containing the mineral spring and fine picnic spots. The old pavilion visited by thousands in years gone by, has been extensively repaired and put into very good shape. A new picnic shelter containing public rest rooms was completed early in the summer. Barbecue pits and picnic tables are scattered throughout the park at convenient locations. A large wading pool for small children has just been completed. Its source of water is a deep artesian well which constantly flows through the pool.

Recently the Marksville Prehistoric Indian Park has been donated to the State Parks Commission by the City of Marksville. Special legislative appropriations enabled the Commission to initiate the development of this park. Of paramount interest are the prehistoric mounds which are located on the area. The Marksville site was first excavated by Gerard Fowke in 1927 and a published report was made of his findings. It was later re-excavated in 1933 by Frank Setzler of the U. S. National Museum assisted by James A. Ford, now of the American Museum of Natural History. Material recovered from the Marksville mounds resembles certain type of pottery found in mounds of the Hopewell culture. This culture appears in Ohio and bordering states. The probability of cultural or trade relationships between these two groups makes the Marksville Park area of national importance from an archeological viewpoint.

A natural history museum is now under construction at the park. Its purpose is to tell the story of the archeological background of the area and other natural history features. It will be an outstanding educational feature which will be of unusual interest to thousands of school children and to their parents alike.

Since these mound-building Indians left no permanent architecture except their mounds, it was difficult to decide on what type of building should be constructed to house the exhibits. A group of local citizens suggested a Spanish type building of brick because the Spaniards were the first white men to inhabit the area. They prepared a preliminary sketch for a suggested museum. The floor plan was used with several minor changes. The exterior construction was simplified in order to reduce the cost of the building and in order to give it more of the authentic character of early Spanish

structures in America. Details and ideas were obtained from a study of the Palacio del Obisado in Monterrey, Mexico; and from the Presidio de La Bahia and from the Mission Espiritu Santo de Zuniga, both of which are located near Goliad, Texas. The latter is an excellent restoration done during the CCC Program in a Texas state park.

In addition to the museum some recreational facilities and a picnic area should be provided. The park is situated on a thirty-five foot bluff overlooking an old channel, known as Old River, which was originally formed by the Mississippi. At present, it is a shallow river, but it gives access to hundreds of miles of good fishing streams. Facilities for docking boats and for renting fishing boats would be a decided recreational advantage.

Of all of the State Parks, Sam Houston, located north of Lake Charles at the confluence of the Houston River, the west fork of the Calcasieu River and Indian Bayou, is the only one which has not been developed. The fact that the area is not accessible by automobile has retarded its development. Some funds have been set aside to initiate construction work and the Department of Highways has recently agreed to survey an access road leading into the site. When a road is completed, so that materials can be moved in, it is planned to start construction. However, additional money will be needed before much can be accomplished.

With one exception, all of the revenue producing facilities in all of the parks are operated by State Park employees. This includes the restaurants, bathhouses, refreshment stands, cabins and fishing boats. Money collected from these operations is deposited in a revolving fund which in turn is used to buy merchandise for resale, operating supplies and to pay salaries of employees engaged in the operation of the facilities. The operation brings in a gross revenue of from \$70,000 to \$75,000 each year.

The State park system is still very much underdeveloped. Greatly increased revenue could be realized from additional revenue producing facilities, which could be operated without a big increase in operating costs. The recreational benefits and opportunities which would result to the citizens of the State from a completely developed park system would be of such great value that it could not be reduced to dollars and cents.

In Australia the bald eagle will follow white men hunting kangaroos, hoping for the offal from the kill. It will pay no attention to the black men hunting the same animal, as it knows the black native will make personal use of all portions of the prey.

The barn or screech owl is often called "the feathered cat" because it is a great foe to mice.



Ralph Kees, of Pineville, La., who proves that being only 10 years old is no bar to his taking the prize barfish at the camp of his Uncle Steve Baker on Catahoula Lake. Steve is supervisor of law enforcement in the Alexandria district for the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries.

LA. BROWN PELICAN . . .

(Continued from Page 9)

curved neck. This gesture is followed by an upward jerk of the head."

The fishing techniques of the Brown Pelican and the White Pelican are completely different. The Brown Pelican is a rugged and lone individualist seeking singly his own prey. He dives for it. The White Pelican fishes by cooperative surface swimming, a coordinated procedure that singularly reflects the pattern of a seining crew. From a semi-circular line, the White Pelicans will drive the fish before them and secure their prey from the constantly more concentrated school.

The fishing of the Brown Pelican, familiar to everyone on the Gulf Coast, is an unforgettable example of the quick vision of birds. Cruising along often at a considerable height, the Pelican is capable of perceiving with precision the presence of the fish it seeks. Thereafter, the skill displayed is amazing. Descending from as much as sixty feet above the water, the

Brown Pelicans, as Murphy (1936) has stated hurtle:

"... usually spiraling or twisting on their downward course so that they struck with their backs rather than their breasts toward the surface. In other words, they would be gliding upside down, with the wings still half spread, at the instant before the plunge. Usually they quite disappear, even to the tips of their long wings. West Indian tradition has it that the pelicans sometimes capture fish a full fathom beneath the surface. The twisting descent is doubtless responsible for the fact that the bird turns some sort of somersault under water, and comes up heading in another direction from that of its diagonal dive. Emergence, in fact, finds the pelican facing the wind and ready for flight, while the plunge is usually, if not always, made with the breeze astern. As soon as pelicans reappear at the surface, they turn down the bill to drain the pouch which may hold "17 pints" of water, after which they toss up and open the bill so as to release their victim, only to receive it in the throat and swallow it with a gulp. It is at such times that Laughing Gulls and noddies attempt to steal the prey of the pelican, sometimes standing upon the latter's head."

The writer has thousands of times listened to this interesting conversation between the loquacious Laughing Gull and the completely dumb Pelican where, almost invariably, the Gull was victor.

The food of the Brown Pelican is chiefly made up of members of the herring-like fishes, particularly the menhaden which abound in the Gulf of Mexico. Menhaden are of no interest whatever to sportsmen since neither do they form the food of sports fishes nor do they serve themselves as sportsmen's quarry. Menhaden, however, have become spectacularly the greatest fishery in volume in the entire western hemisphere. With a total production last year in the United States of America of over 1,250,000,000 (one and one-quarter billion) pounds.

Menhaden are now one of our most valuable marine sources of oils and stock foods.

Inasmuch as the menhaden fishery has been practiced for over one hundred years in certain localities on the Atlantic Coast and without any reduction in menhaden numbers and that pattern is reflected on our Gulf Coast, it is perfectly clear that there are enough menhaden in the Gulf of Mexico to feed all of our state Brown Pelicans that could possibly exist without reducing one penny the income of the menhaden fishermen.

The flight of the Pelican is well described by Murphy (1936):

"The flight of the Brown Pelican is both leisurely and extremely powerful, and their formation of lines or wedges in which the wing-beats make a rhythmic sequence has often been described. The position and spacing of birds in line is doubtless determined by requirements of clear vision

ahead for all of them, and perhaps by the nature of the air movements set up by their sweeping wings. All sorts of invisible currents in the atmosphere are, indeed, their servants, and the way in which they take advantage of the lift produced by a wave advancing at an angle against a sandy shore has long been admired. The pelicans appear to glide along a breaker in such a manner that the energy born of lively water, rather than any muscular effort of their own, will carry them for very long distances without a single wing stroke."

Every ivory-towered dowerer who loves the lovely birds and the moral lessons they teach had better stay away from a Pelican colony. Pelican parents are capable, as elsewhere described, of recognizing their own offspring and instead of sharing their charity with other young, they not only murder them but also eat them; even further, the fledgling Brown Pelicans themselves, who have certainly not gotten very far along in their education, practice cannibalism and often eat the newly hatched chicks.

The pouch of the Pelican is used to catch, not to carry, its prey. The food for the young is borne in the gullet into which the nestlings plunge shoulder deep to secure their meal. They create a great uproar while feeding, but are so greedy that they become, because they are so stuffed with food, semi-conscious and lay their heads on the ground while their parents leave them



Arnold Ruth Pruett of Rayville, La., with a nice catch of bass and perch made in Panther Lake, near Wavelly, La.

and go bathing and characteristically soar in the air. Coming out of their daze, the young frequently exhibit a weird series of paroxysms in which they swing their heads from side to side and bite their own wings as if in a rage.

Few even deeply interested students of birds realize that there is being produced in the United States one of the greatest ornithological works concerning the life histories of the birds at any time in any land. Now in its eighteenth volume, this vast enterprise, which might perhaps be best generally described as "life histories of North American birds," bears a separate title for each volume, the first of which appeared in 1919. The author is Arthur Cleveland Bent and his careful scholarship involves a prodigious, well executed task. The first volume was published in 1919.

Our Brown Pelican appears in the third volume and from it is here quoted a note concerning the work of our own department:

"The food of the brown pelican consists entirely of fish, chiefly menhaden, mullets, and other fish unfit for human food. Complaints that it is very destructive to food fish, and therefore unworthy of protection, have been proven as not well founded by an exhaustive investigation conducted by the Department of Conservation in Louisiana, in cooperation with the Biological Survey."

Fifteen Brown Pelicans banded at Mosquito Lagoon, Pelican Island, Florida on October 30, 1935 were captured and later released at Nuevitas, Cuba the following February, 1936.

Three records of White Pelicans relate to a Dafoe, Saskatchewan, Canada record banded July 6, 1932 which were shot at Vera Cruz, Mexico on July 22, 1935; an individual banded at Clear Lake, Modoc County, California, June 26, 1924 and was killed at Michoacan State, Mexico, February 24, 1935, while a Stutsman County, North Dakota individual banded July 26, 1934 was shot the following June 1st at Tamaulipas, Mexico.

One competent observer noted that a mosquito plague at the Pelican Island, Florida colony compelled the Brown Pelicans at the height of their breeding activities to abandon six hundred nests containing young birds. It seems hardly believable that mosquitoes alone could have caused this behavior.

The Eastern Brown Pelican had an old Acadian name, "Grand Gosier," which was registered in Louisiana geography as a name of an island which is part of a long chain of State and Federal bird refuges extending from Chandeaur Island to Breton Island.

The name, "Grand Gosier," (literally "great throat") refers to the pouch which is the most eminent anatomical attribute of the bird. Six to eight inches in depth, this pouch, John James Audubon one hundred and thirty years ago stated, was used by sailors as a tobacco sack. The same

sailors even utilized the material to make muffs.

The actual use of the Pelican's pouch will be clearly designated below.

The pouch of the Brown Pelican has attracted both attention and enterprise. As Read in his incomparable "Louisiana-French" has stated:

"The gular pouch of a brown pelican measures from 6 to 10 inches in depth according to the age of the bird after the first moult, says Audubon. The same authority found the length of an old male white pelican's bill to be 13 3/4 inches along the ridge and 15 inches along the lower mandible. Sailors used to kill the pelican and convert its pouch into a sack for their tobacco. Even muffs were made of the skin of its pouch."

The Yellow-Billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus catesbyi*) is twenty-six inches long, of which length sixteen inches is a peculiar, long, trailing tail made up of only two feathers. Elsewhere in the world, Tropicbirds are given the name of Bo'sun Birds. Oddly, enough, there are only three species of Tropicbirds in the whole world. They are, indeed, strange birds, flying low over the water with a dove-like flight. The author has the only authentically established record of the Yellow-Billed Tropicbird on the Louisiana Coast and would appreciate the addition of any other observations by coastal Gulf of Mexico fishermen. The strange thing is that under the circumstances of observation, the tail feathers are virtually invisible so that the bird appears as a dove-like creature against an illuminated pattern of water and sky.

The two Louisiana species of Pelicans cannot conceivably be confused. The White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) with a wing spread of eight to ten feet, is in flight an impressive bird. As far as we know, it does not breed in Louisiana. The Brown Pelican is much smaller, with a wing spread of six to seven feet. It is the smallest of a number of kinds of Brown Pelicans that exist through South, Central and North America as far as the Coast of Peru.

The Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata magnificens rothschildi*), known elsewhere as the Frigatebird, is unmistakable. Our particular subspecies occurs constantly off our coast. Oddly enough, one of the extremely few errors ever attributed to John James Audubon was his record of the Man-o'-war's nesting on the Galapagos Islands. Still more odd is the fact that the only Man-o'-war-bird egg laid in Louisiana of which there is any record was picked up by President Theodore Roosevelt on one of the islands of the Chandelers while he was a guest of the Louisiana Department of Conservation.

The Boobies, which gained their name because they were extremely dumb, are long-winged sea birds closely related to the Gannets. The writer has observed the two species recorded as having ever occurred in Louisiana, the first the bird with the marvelous name of the Atlantic Blue-Faced Booby (*Sula dactylatra dactylatra*), the



James A. Wallace of the Concordia Wildlife Association with a string of speckled perch taken from Concordia Lake near Ferriday, La.

second, the White-Bellied Booby (*Sula leucogastra leucogastra*).

Boobies, in the distance, can best be distinguished by wing pattern.

The Gannet (*Morus bassana*), related to the Boobies, is one of our quite extraordinary Louisiana visitors since it nests during the summer just about as far North as it could possibly get, namely the Gaspé Peninsula where the St. Lawrence pours its waters into the Atlantic Ocean. The writer has observed the Gannet as a winter visitor offshore in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Cormorants are well-known visitors in Louisiana, the Double-Crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*) actually appearing as a winter visitor abundantly. The writer has observed tens of thousands of Cormorants crossing Grand Pass from their night resting grounds to their Gulf fishing. Two other species of Cormorants occur, the Florida Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus floridanus*) as a permanent visitor, the Mexican Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus mexicanus*), almost indistinguishable in the field from the Double-Crested Cormorant, as a breeding species.



A beautiful catch of bass taken at "Chip's Retreat" on Lake Bistineau by F. A. Perry of Shreveport, La.

TERREBONNE SETS REDFISH RODEO

ANGLERS from far and wide will again have an opportunity to vie for honors when the second annual redbfish rodeo will be held in Terrebonne parish on October 6 and 7. Due to widespread interest shown last year the Terrebonne sportsmen's league has decided to make the annual event. Headquarters will again be on the banks of Bayou Dulac, 20 miles below Houma, and plans are being arranged to provide facilities for a record participation and to entertain all visitors.

Committees to handle details of the rodeo were named at a meeting of the Terrebonne sportsmen's league as follows:

Rules, Irving Carlos, M. J. Rayne, Al. Authement; entertainment, Roy Boudreaux, Dr. B. J. Autin, M. L. Funderburk; publicity, Ovide Bazet, R. A. Bazet, Max Boudreaux; prize, Louis Routier, J. M. Jaccuzzo, Marvin Moore, Duffy Guidroz; registration, Carl Jackson, Angelo Pullaro, Vincent Degate; arrangement, Edward Domange, Paul Pellegrin, John E. Foolkes, Jr., Louis Lapeyre; charter boats, Alvin Pellergrin, Temus Bonnette, Alton Rhodes; radio and photography, Otis Bour, Earl Dagnis.

Anyone wishing to participate in the rodeo may register at their sporting goods store, write Angelo Pullaro, Domino Sports Center, Houma, La., or Carl Jackson, chairman registration committee, 851 Wood St., Houma, La.

The Terrebonne Sportsmen's league has gained many new members in recent months and Louis Routier was presented with an excellent watch by the league in appreciation of his efforts in the membership drive.

Rising Cost of Meat

State legislatures are rapidly taking much of the profit out of the ancient and dishonorable business of deer poaching, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. New York, which recently raised its fine for night hunting, has now upped the price of any out-of-season deer hunter to equal that of a jack-lit deer. The minimum penalty is \$100 and the maximum, \$500 and one year of imprisonment. The violator also may be subject to a civil action for costs ranging to several hundred dollars in addition to his fine.

West Virginia's new deer law provides for a fine, upon conviction, of not less than \$100 nor more than \$300 and a 30-day minimum jail sentence. Tennessee, where the maximum fine formerly was less than the black market value of a deer carcass has raised the penalty to at least \$50 and 30 days for the first offense, with possible confiscation of firearms and automobiles.

It's getting so a crook can't make a dishonest dollar anywhere these days.

Whitetails Mature Early

One reason why deer are able to increase in numbers so rapidly that the herds outgrow the ability of the range to support them is indicated in an item from the Missouri Conservation Commission, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. An autopsy on a nine-month-old fawn, killed by an automobile, showed that it was carrying a 100-day-old embryo. This means that the deer had bred successfully when little more than five months of age. Granted a little luck, she could have become a grandmother at the ripe old age of two.

More Careful With Fire

Although there were more people seeking recreation in the national forests last year than ever before, the visitors started fewer fires through carelessness than during the previous year, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

Careless smokers started 1,701 fires on national forests as compared with 1,842 in 1949, records of the U. S. Forest Service show. Incendiary fires, however, increased from 1,204 in 1949 to 1,724 in 1950. The majority of the blazes intentionally set by "fire bugs" occurred on the national forests of the 11 states lying south of Virginia.

Legend has it that the kangaroo's name comes from a native phrase meaning "I don't know", given in reply to the white man who inquired the name of this strange animal.

The physical conformation of a calf moose makes it almost impossible for him to eat off the ground without kneeling down.

NEW DUST WORRIES WILDLIFE MANAGERS

DDT, an insecticide that created grey hairs on the heads of wildlife biologists a few years ago when it was first sprayed haphazardly across the nation in heavy concentrations, looks like a mild stimulant when compared to some of the more recent products of the chemists' test tubes, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

GRAND ISLE RODEO . . .

(Continued from Page 13)

mie of Grand Isle, 6 lbs. 1 oz. Fourth, Bob Lockett, Jr., 5 lbs. 14 oz.

Speckled Trout—First, Suzette Cook of New Orleans, 3 lbs. 12 oz. Second, Horace Audin, 3 lbs. 8 oz. Third, Harold Collins of Grand Isle, 3 lbs. 6 oz. Fourth, Jimmy Duet of Golden Meadow, 3 lbs. 3 oz.

Jewish—Z. Franks of New Orleans, 294½ lbs. Second, C. P. Boston of Baton Rouge, 279 lbs. Third, C. P. Boston of Baton Rouge, 247 lbs. Fourth, Z. Franks of New Orleans, 117½ lbs.

Tripletail—First, Floyd Darcey, 15½ lbs. Second, Dr. Willard Ellender of Houma, 6 lbs. 3 oz. Third, Leon Ruttley, 5 lbs. 9 oz. Fourth, tie between Walker Sausy of New Orleans and Joe A. Serigny at 5 lbs. 7 oz.



W. W. Maddox with two bobcats he captured on the Buck Horn Club grounds in Tensas parish. These make 22 bobcats taken in this area recently.

MORGAN CITY SHRIMP FESTIVAL

By E. J. Lehmann

THE annual picturesque ceremony, in which the huge fleet of boats harbored in Berwick Bay is blessed, will be staged this year at Morgan City on Sunday, Sept. 16, as the climax of a great two-day festival.

Visitors from far and near, including newspaper and magazine feature writers, newsreel cameramen, amateur and professional photographers, artists with sketch pads and paint brushes, will be on hand to record the 16th annual observance of a custom which dates back to Biblical days and is said to have been brought to this country centuries ago by fishing families of Brittany.

The religious rites are conducted by the Catholic Church clergy before an improvised altar aboard the vessel chosen as the flagship of the fleet. Services begin at 10 a. m. Sunday, with the flagship circling the bay and moving slowly past trawlers, luggers, speed boats, tugs, towboats, freighters and pleasure boats moored two and three abreast along the Morgan City and Berwick shores.

Priests will ask God's blessing on the captains and crews that they may have protection from the dangers of life at sea.

When holy water has been sprinkled in the direction of the last boat riding at anchor in the river, the band aboard a barge in the middle of the bay will conclude its program of hymns and strike up stirring martial music for the unique Water Parade. The barge transporting the band will lead off and vessels of every size and description will follow on a cruise of the bay area of the Atchafalaya River.

Judges of the Best Decorated Boats Contest will be accommodated aboard a speed boat. They will decide the four best decorated trawlers and the four best decorated boats other than trawlers, and \$250 in prizes will be awarded in each of these two classes. Balloons, pennants, flags, streamers and other decorating material are used ingeniously by captains to make their freshly scrubbed boats as gay and colorful as possible.

Distinguished guests such as the governing authorities of the state, many parishes and cities, and heads of state departments will have places aboard boats reserved for them. For their pleasure and comfort the Elks Home, transformed into Hospitality Hall, will be open to them from 9 a. m. on during the day Sunday. Shrimp and other refreshments will be served there.

Exciting power boat races on Berwick Bay will be an attraction Sunday afternoon, starting at 1:30 o'clock. Sponsored by the local Twin City Boat Club which is a member of the American Power Boat Association, the amateur winners in the races will receive 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies. Winners among the professionals

will receive cash prizes. Fast boats which have been setting speed records and their drivers from throughout Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and other Gulf Coast states are expected to participate. Entries may be made with the Twin City Boat Club, Morgan City.

Sunday afternoon some of the outstanding show horses and riders of this and neighboring states will be here to take part in the Street Parade at 1 p. m. and in a Horse Show at Norman Athletic Park at 2:30 p. m. B. B. Brooks, Morgan City, is chairman in charge of the event and may be contacted by those wishing to enter.

Starting at 8 o'clock Sunday morning and running into the afternoon there will be held on the range just east of Morgan City the First Annual Shrimp Festival Small Bore Tournament sponsored by the St. Mary Rifle and Pistol Club, Inc., and approved by the National Rifle Association which is sending a referee here for the matches. Seven trophies and 56 medals will be awarded winners. Matches are open to classified competitors of the N. R. A. or any branch of the armed forces and to unclassified competitors. Anyone wishing a schedule of the matches may write L. J. Boudreaux, Jr., Morgan City.

Stunts and athletic contests for prizes will be a feature of Saturday afternoon, starting at 2 o'clock, with Morgan City's Superintendent of Recreation, George Buckley, directing the event.

The Coronation Ceremony will be staged at the school gym at 8 p. m. Saturday. Pretty blonde Elizabeth Bourgeois of Franklin, chosen in a recent beauty contest here, will reign as Queen of the Shrimp Festival with Carolyn LeBlanc, Gladys Mire, Frances Grizzaffi, Bernadine Mula and Mary Louise Beadle of Morgan City; Mildred Bernadou of Berwick; Leona Senitiere, Evelyn Blanchard, Sherry Ann Talbot and Sylvia Parrah of Franklin as maids. The King of the Festival and his Dukes have been chosen but will not be made known until the night of the Court Show.

The Coronation Ceremony at the school gym will be followed by a Grand Ball at the New Shell Inn with Russ Papalia's Orchestra playing for the dancers.

Morgan City's Rotary Club is sponsoring the parade which will include beautiful custom-made floats and girls and small and large bands.

Cash prizes will be awarded winners in the School Band Contests, the bands to be judged as they march and play in the parade.

Cash awards amounting to more than \$200 will be made to outstanding exhibits in the 1951 Seafoods Display. The Morgan City-Berwick Chamber of Commerce is handling this section of the show. Dealers in seafoods will arrange displays of the

products shipped from here in such abundance.

There will be cash prizes also for winners in the Photographic Contest in charge of L. T. Holmes.

The prize money is made available to the La. Shrimp Festival and Fair Ass'n., Inc., by the Legislature of Louisiana to help promote the welfare of the great fisheries industry of this state.

Louisiana is first in the nation in shrimp producing states and one of the leading states in value of its total fisheries catch each year.

Morgan City is the center of the area which produces more of Louisiana Seafoods than any other section.

This area produced last year more than three-fourths of all the fresh water fish; one-fourth of all the fresh shrimp and 80% of all the fresh cooked crabmeat.

Adding interest to the Festival weekend will be displays of "Mementoes of the Past" in observance of the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of this community under the name of Morgan City. An historical edition of the newspaper, decorations and exhibits pertaining to 1876, and other features are planned to commemorate this Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Year.



Here's proof that Wallace Lake does have big bass. Jack Akers of Shreveport, took these three weighing six pounds, four pounds 11 ounces, and three pounds, respectively, using a "Blue Heddon" chugger one morning recently.

Courtesy "Michigan Conservation"

ANGLER AGGRAVATIONS

